

Youth Center and Boys and Girls Club offers children here a place where kids can be kids. See page 14 for more.



February 9, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

Monitors make tough career decisions easier

For Marines facing reassignment to their next duty station, getting where they want to go could be as easy as sending an e-mail or placing a phone call to their monitor.

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NEWS

Local Marine works to increase battery lifespan

III Marine Expeditionary Force's Business Consultant tackles task of making batteries last longer as part of the Materiel Readiness Process Improvement Plan, which will help save the Marine Corps money.

see page 5 for more

FEATURE

Welcoming a new breed of determined warriors

The Young Marine Program on Okinawa began training a new platoon of recruits Jan. 29 as it kicked off an 11-week boot camp where the recruits will learn discipline, drill and undergo physical training.

see pages 10-11 for more

SPORTS

Kubasaki hosts final open wrestling tournament

The Kubasaki High School Dragons held the last open wrestling tournament of the season on Okinawa Jan. 27 before heading off to the Far-East Wrestling Tournament to be held in Yokosuka, Japan.

see page 16 for more

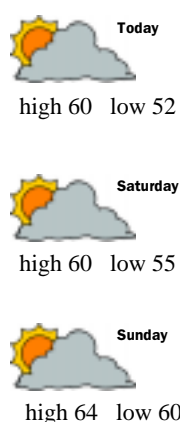
LEISURE

Cherry Blossom Festival draws large crowd

Even though this year has seen a late bloom, Okinawans and service members alike turn out for the 39th Annual Nago City Cherry Blossom Festival to celebrate Okinawan culture and history.

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FORECAST



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MEF trains MAGTF staff

GYSGT M. J. MARTIN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — The command and staff elements of III Marine Expeditionary Force are firmly entrenched for the final phase of a MAGTF Staff Training Program tactical exercise at the III MEF Battle Site Training Facility here.

The exercise is a simulated war that is planned and fought on computers. It is run by the MSTP, a mobile training team based out of Quantico, Va.

The MSTP exercise is conducted every two years. It is broken down into three training phases. The first phase is the initial coordination phase, where MSTP and MEF planners discuss how the operation will be conducted.

The second phase consists of classes on new computer programs, improving communications, establishing command and control, and much more.

The final phase is the execution phase. In this phase, MSTP evaluates the CG's staff and major subordinate commands' staff on how the MEF com-



GYSGT M. J. MARTIN

Corporal of the Guard, Cpl Garrett O. Foster (right), Avionics Technician, HMLA-267, 1st MAW, gives Cpl Ernest L. Hill (left), Motor Transport, MWSS-172, 1st MAW, authorization to enter the 1st MAW compound. LCpl Jason M. Breault (center), Military Policeman, H&S Bn, MCB, stands by to ensure security is not breached.

municates, interprets information, and plans for the current and future fight.

"The purpose of the MSTP is to help the commanding generals better organize the MEFs for deployments," said SSgt Steven Santana, MAGTF Operations. "They exchange ideas, share information, and discuss new technologies and innovations with the MEF CGs."

"The biggest thing is management of

information so major subordinate command commanders can make timely decisions," said MGySgt David J. Bumgardner, Operations Chief, G-3, III MEF. "The MSTP's purpose is to help the CGs better organize the MEF's command and control, so we're all speaking the same message and staying on the cutting edge of technology and information management."

Marine Corps pulls Ephedra products off store shelves

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps has pulled Ephedra-based products from sales shelves due to the risks associated with taking these supplements.

In recent messages from the Commandant and from LtGen Frank Libutti, Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific, the Marine Corps made the decision to discontinue the sales of all known Ephedra-based products by Feb. 1.

Marine Corps Community Services-Okinawa previously removed any known supplements with these products over one year ago. "MCAS Iwakuni pulled everything a couple of weeks ago," said GySgt Alexander Arrieta, Business Operations Chief, Marine Corps Exchange, Iwakuni. "As soon as we caught wind of it, we pulled it — we don't mess around with things concerning safety of our Marines and families."

Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities, the United Services Organization, and Defense Commissary Agency commissaries of Okinawa and Camp Fuji

Marine installations have also been advised that no Ephedra-containing sports supplements or dietary products are authorized for sale, and a list of products was provided to the above agencies. This restriction also applies to home business sales.

The decision to remove Ephedra-based products is based on the Navy Surgeon General's recommendations that the supplements are hazardous to the health of Marines and Sailors.

Ephedrine is one of many dietary supplements available on the market claiming to speed up the process of physical fitness. Supplements may also state that they increase weight loss, muscle mass and energy. However the promises of supplements like Ephedrine may not be worth the health risks.

"Extensive research findings from both the Federal Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control show mounting evidence that Ephedra-containing supplements are, in fact, dangerous and may result in adverse cardiovascular and / or neurovascular events in an otherwise healthy individual," said Navy Capt Michael H. Mittelman, Commanding Officer, U.S.

Naval Hospital Okinawa.

The Food and Drug Administration conducted investigations after reports of adverse effects of products containing Ephedra. Of particular concern are the severe complications found in young, fit Marines and sailors.

The FDA found that the possible health hazards of Ephedrine are high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, nerve damage, injury, insomnia, tremors, headaches, seizures, heart attack, stroke and death.

Other effects are hypertension, nervousness, anxiety, psychosis, hallucinations, depression, paranoia, urinary retention, hypersensitivity, and physical addiction.

According to the FDA, most of these symptoms only occur with chronic use.

"On Nov. 22, 1999 a 20 year-old Marine died while playing basketball at Camp Schwab. Autopsy revealed minor changes in his heart and no other significant findings," said Capt Mittelman. "During the course of the investigation that followed, the service member had a history of regularly using sport supplements, primarily a product known as 'Ultimate Orange'."

EPHEDRINE, continued on page 5

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

Monitors make difference

Monitors help enlisted Marines tackle difficult career issues and take them where they want to go

LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — For Marines facing reassignment to their next duty station, getting to where they want to go could be as simple as sending an e-mail or making a phone call to their monitor.

Monitors assign Marines to specific duty stations. However, even though monitors try to send Marines where they want to go, not all will get their dream assignment.



MSgt Taylor

There are 40 monitors Corps-wide to provide Marines information regarding future assignments, and other career issues such as how to stay competitive for promotion, according to MSgt R.J. Taylor, Monitor, Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments-84 A, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Monitors concentrate on two main groups, junior enlisted and career Marines.

"With junior Marines, monitors try to focus on the first term alignment plan by trying to give Marines what they want in order to get them to reenlist," MSgt Taylor said. "In this plan we try to keep the pyramid structure

of the Marine Corps balanced by having a larger number of junior enlisted Marines than senior enlisted. If there are no junior Marines reenlisting then we would have more of a square than a pyramid."

Marines can contact their monitors at anytime via e-mail, phone, in person or by using their chain of command, according to MSgt Taylor. Also, Marines can obtain the name of their monitors by contacting their career planner.

Monitors say they strive to give personal service to the Marines they assign.

"Talking to a Marine one-on-one is important because it gives that Marine an opportunity to have a part in his career," said GySgt Justin D. Lymph, Monitor, MMEA-84 A.

Sometimes, monitors must send Marines to places they don't want to go, GySgt Lymph said.

"We have all been on the receiving end of orders," GySgt Lymph said. "We don't always like having to say 'Hey, sorry Marine, you're going to Twenty-nine Palms.' In those cases the best advice we can give is just to keep your head up."

When monitors deal with career Marines their primary objective is to ensure Marines stay competitive with their peers, according to MSgt Taylor.

"We make sure that if a Marine needs to have some overseas time, we



LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA

GySgt Bessie L. Reggans, Monitor, Headquarters Marine Corps, speaks with enlisted Marines to discuss possible duty station assignments.

give it to him. Also we want to make sure that it isn't the same 10 percent of Marines that are being sent overseas," MSgt Taylor said. "Another way we make sure Marines stay competitive is to check and see what special schools they have been to."

Marines who cannot meet with their monitors in person at Headquarters Marine Corps will be able to meet with them one on one during one of the monitor road shows, according to MSgt Taylor.

"We have three road shows a year, one on the East Coast, one on the West Coast and one in Okinawa," MSgt Taylor said.

The job of a monitor is hard, but a necessary job, according to MSgt Taylor.

Look for the monitors to continue helping Marines as long as the Corps exists.

For more information about monitors and how to contact them, look on www.usmc.mil.

Assurance training guards against information warfare

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel of Marine Corps Base received mandatory security and information assurance training recently to guard against information warfare.

"All Department of Defense employees are required by Public Law 100-235 to receive annual security training," said MSgt James E. Adrian, Small Systems Computer Specialist, Information Systems Security Manager Special Staff Section, G-6, during a security brief here Jan. 16. "This will teach and review defensive measures you can effect to protect the Okinawa Wide Area Network and Marine Corps Enterprise Network against our adversaries, hackers, and authors of malicious code."

The brief covered five security topics including physical security, computer basics, e-mail guidance, Internet guidance, and software.

Physical security steps to deny the easy access to the computer networks include: securing doors and windows, securing media in desk drawers, reporting anomalies, challenging strangers using or attempting to use computer assets in immediate area, and recognizing bad habits and changing them, according to the brief.

"A bad habit many of our users have is leaving their computer unattended while logged into the network," MSgt Adrian said. "Even if you're just going to make a head call or get a cup of coffee, you need to log off or lock your workstation."

The computer basics portion of the brief covered passwords, reporting attempts to get login in-

formation, logging in so others can access the network, and making back up copies of data.

"Important things to remember when choosing a password are not using anniversary dates, pet names, and other easily attainable information," MSgt Adrian said.



MSgt Adrian

"Also, if someone calls saying they are a network manager and asks for your login and password to test something on the network, they do not work for us. Our personnel have the capability to create accounts to do any testing that needs to be done. Try to get as much information from the person on the phone and report the incident to your Information Systems Coordinator as soon as possible."

The computer basics portion also covered computer virus software use and reporting viruses when encountered.

"The use of Norton and McAfee antivirus software on government computers is mandatory," MSgt Adrian said. "Our users should be scanning all hard drives at least once a week, minimum, and all removable media before each use."

The e-mail and Internet guidance portion of the brief highlighted use in the performance of official duties. E-mail and Internet can be used to obtain information to support DoD, Department of the Navy and Marine Corps missions, according to the brief.

The brief also stated that e-mail and Internet may be used to obtain information that enhances the professional skills of Marine Corps personnel and, un-

der optimal conditions, to access the Internet for incidental personal purposes such as Internet searches and brief communications as long as it does not adversely impact official duties of the individual.

"It's important to remember that any incidental personal usage is done on the individual's personal time," MSgt Adrian said. "This usage can only be done as long as it does not overburden Marine Corps computing resources, result in added costs to the government, or adversely reflect upon the Marine Corps."

"Chain mail is definitely not authorized," MSgt Adrian said. "Chain mail that says 'Act now, send it to everyone you know', should not be forwarded. Report any chain mail you receive to your ISC."

Other unauthorized usage on the Internet, MSgt Adrian said, includes pornography; illegal or malicious activities; hate, militant, racist sites; or use for personal, commercial, financial profit.

The final topic discussed during the brief gave guidance on the proper usage of software on government computers.

"The Marine Corps recognizes and complies with all vendor patents, copyright, trade secrets, and license agreements," MSgt Adrian said. Users may only load authorized software, he said. Hacking tools, denial-of-service tools, illegal or bootleg copies of software can't be loaded. Shareware or freeware may only be loaded with prior written approval from G-6, MSgt Adrian said.

For more details on information assurance and security, contact unit ISCs or the G-6 Help Desk by dialing either 114 or 117.

III MEF works to increase battery lifespan, cut cost

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — Unlike the batteries that keep the pink rabbit with the tiny drum going and going, the more than 4,000 wet-cell batteries used in vehicles throughout the III Marine Expeditionary Force need an occasional boost.

Increasing the life span of these batteries is one of three major projects being tackled by III MEF's Business Consultant, John Chandler.

III MEF developed the Materiel Readiness Process Improvement Program, or Mr. Pip, in accordance with the guidelines of the Business Reform Initiative, a congressionally-mandated program to make the Marine Corps take a more businesslike approach to its operations.

The program tries to find ways to cut costs. One project underway seeks to make vehicle batteries last longer.

"Here, in III MEF the commanding general has instructed all the G-4's to research and embrace business technologies and methodologies that allow us to achieve materiel readiness and make money go farther," Chandler said. "This is a money-extender program, not a money-saver program."

The first test program undertaken by Chandler, and his Materiel Readiness Program Process Improvement Team, focuses on four Mobile Battery Shelters. The shelters were allotted to III MEF from the Marine Corps Systems Command.

"We are basically testing this equipment to see if it does what it is supposed to do," Chandler said.

During the testing process, III MEF is seeing its battery budget go farther.

III MEF disbursed the four battery shelter units to the Combat Assault Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, who received two, and Marine Wing Support Squadron-172.



Sgt. Ricardo M. Hayes, Section Chief, Hqtrs Btry, 4th Marines, checks the serviceability of the pulse chargers.

Parked in the motor pools of the respective units, the battery shelter serves two purposes. First, it is designed to renovate batteries, making them more rechargeable. Secondly, it charges the batteries.

The shelters eliminate much of the leg work and possible human error related to battery maintenance and replacement. Typically, Marines working in the motor pool must remove the batteries from a vehicle in order to test and charge them. Vehicles, like the amphibious assault vehicle use four wet-cell batteries. It requires considerable time to determine which batteries need charging.

The battery shelters have diagnostic equipment that allows mechanics to test the batteries without removing them from the vehicle. They also improve the process of renovating and managing automotive batteries, according to Chandler.

The shelters get vehicles back on the road more quickly by reducing the time needed to recharge batteries.

Research and experience put vehicle batteries at the top of the Mr. Pip task list.

"Supply and maintenance of equipment proved to be the largest consumable expense we found,"

Chandler said. "Quite simply, vehicle batteries are expensive."

Each battery costs the Marine Corps more than \$70, according to Chandler. His research revealed that III MEF spent more than \$300,000 on vehicle batteries in 2000.

Budget forecasts show an almost \$200,000 drop in battery purchasing and maintenance expenditure in 2001. Through Mr. Pip and the battery shelters, the command gains \$200,000 dollars to spend on other materiel readiness issues, Chandler said.

Longer lasting batteries are just one of many initiatives being addressed to make III MEF's budget go farther.

Chandler said other initiatives being explored through Mr. Pip include solar energy, retreading tires and the use of alternate power sources in communications equipment.

"The programs are intended to help commanders be better stewards of their assets and give them the tools to achieve that stewardship," Chandler said. "In the end, our main goal is to help the commanders make money go farther and to maintain combat readiness."

Base Facilities Branch urges energy conservation

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — In response to funding cuts to pay for utilities, Facilities Maintenance Branch officials are calling for increased islandwide energy conservation.

"We are taking a significant reduction in utilities spending this year," said Jack Whittle, facilities engineer, FMB, Marine Corps Base. "So if you want it cool and comfortable next summer, start conserving energy now."

There are many ways personnel can conserve energy both in the office and at home or in the barracks, according to SSgt. Matias Delgadorodriguez, utilities engineer chief, FMB.

"There is an ongoing overuse of energy with office equipment and lights and electrical appliances in the barracks," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "It's a leadership thing that starts at the top. Facilities managers need to monitor and enforce energy conservation methods in the offices and noncommissioned officers need to monitor the Marines in the barracks."

Energy conservation methods for the workplace include ensuring lights, computers, printers and other equipment are turned off when not in use.

Lights used for security at night should also be turned off during the day, SSgt Delgadorodriguez said.

"Operating the lights in one room all day, everyday, can cost more than \$1,500 a year," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "By turning them off when no one is in the office, that amount can be cut in half. Also, leaving lights on creates heat which in turn costs more money as air conditioners compensate for it."

The same goes for any office equipment that creates a heat flow.

"People leaving computers on is also a problem," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "If you can't turn your computer off, at least use the power management options on your computer which allows the monitor to turn off when not in use."

Marines can also save money in the barracks in many ways, SSgt Delgadorodriguez said.

"Marines in the barracks need to ensure they also turn off lights, televisions, stereos and computers when they are

not in their rooms," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "They should also ensure that exhaust fans in their bathrooms are turned off when not in use. This not only costs money to run them, but pumps AC out as well."

"Other energy conservation tips include turning off lights in the lounges and laundry rooms when not being used," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "Even when laundry rooms are being used, washing machines and dryers are not afraid of operating in the dark."

If the Marines and tenants of Camp Butler all take the extra steps to ensure conservation, it will free up money for other purposes, SSgt Delgadorodriguez said.

"If you cut the waste, we can put the money to other productive uses like replacing the older, non-efficient window AC units with other alternatives," SSgt Delgadorodriguez said. "There are also a lot of facilities that have no AC at all. It all comes down to each individual making that extra effort. The actions of one person conserving energy can truly affect many."

EPHEDRINE

Drugs like Ephedrine can be deadly when combined with heat and humidity during field exercises and physical training.

"It is well known that the ingredients of these Ephedra-based products can also increase heart rate and blood pressure, leading to stroke or heart attacks," said Capt Mittelman.

Physical activity revs up the body and ephedrine revs it up a little more not using your bodies' own natural mechanism. Not everyone responds the same way to medications. Some people might have strokes and others might have heat stroke.

For more information on ephedrine contact your primary care provider or go to the American Academy of Family Physicians web site at www.familydoctor.org and click on 'Herbal and Alternative Remedies' then select Ephedra.

— Torii Teller Staff contributed to this report.

1/5 trains for riot control



CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB
 Riot control training serves as a collateral duty for the Marines of Battery F, Battalion Landing Team, 1/5.

CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — The Marines of Battery F, Battalion Landing Team 1/5, arrived here recently, as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

BLT 1/5 is attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and traveled here from its home base at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Upon arrival, the Marines began training to enhance their riot control skills for noncombatant evacuation operations.

"The Marines are really pumped up and motivated about this training, but they know the real test is when we have to go out in harm's way," said SSgt Luis M. Aguilar, Battery Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Btry F, BLT 1/5.

According to SSgt Aguilar, his Marines are no strangers to learning new tactics. With the help of fellow Marines portraying angry protestors, Btry F Marines appeared at the camp in full riot-control armor.

"We are an artillery unit, but we are used to training for different things," SSgt Aguilar said. "We usually train in noncombatant evacuation operations, such as if an embassy was overrun, and we had to help escort Americans out of there. Or, we would provide security for other units."

During their NEO training, the battery focused mainly on riot control. The Marines worked together

to function as a team with an emphasis placed on understanding their roles as part of their riot squad.

"Today, the two platoons split up and practiced formations, the placement of each individual Marine, how to search prisoners, and how to react against aggressors," SSgt Aguilar said. "The Marines learn specifically what they should and shouldn't do when handling a hostile crowd."

The weapon selection at the Marines' disposal is impressive. They are made especially for riot control situations, and are meant to be less than lethal in the event the Marines must use physical force against assailants.

"The Marines are equipped with the full body riot shields and helmets," SSgt Aguilar said. "Some Marines are also equipped with batons and shotguns that fire rubber balls, flash bangs and sting-bombs. All the Marines are equipped with pepper spray."

Our main goal is to simply disable assailants and then drag them across the line to us, where we can then search and handcuff them. From there, they are out of commission and the Marines can continue to try and make the crowd calm down or go away. The Marines' main mission is to make sure the situation doesn't get out of hand."

The ability to subdue an angry, but unarmed, crowd is essential to the Marine Corps' success in humanitarian and peacekeeping missions.

"If we don't do these kind of tactics now, then we won't be able to understand and control the real situation later," said Cpl Alden J. Weaver, Communications Operator, Btry F, BLT 1/5. "This kind of exercise really helps us become familiar with what we can face, and how we should react. It also builds our confidence and shows us how to get through everything so we can come back home alive."

Success during any riot control scenario relies on the teamwork of the Marines. According to Sgt Jared M Hedge, Security Chief, Btry F, BLT 1/5, the Marines gelled together throughout the training evolution in perfect fashion and accomplished what they needed to do. They even learned some new techniques since going through riot school.

"All of this actually comes easy to the Marines once they really start working together," Sgt Hedge said. "They are doing real good, especially since most of these guys have been together for at least six months."

A military police officer here visited the unit to offer a few tips to further enhance their riot control knowledge, according to Sgt Hedge.

"They do things a little differently over here and have some different styles in the types of riot formations they use," Sgt Hedge said. "We mixed their style in with our own, so now our Marines are trained in new areas of riot control. The Marines got a lot out of this training. I wish we could do this type of thing every week."

SAFETY ZONE

Work place fire safety

BASE SAFETY OFFICE

Workplace fires and explosions kill 200 and injure more than 5,000 workers each year.

"Fires wreak havoc among workers and their families and destroy thousands of businesses each year, putting people out of work and severely impacting their livelihoods," said Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich on Oct. 8, 1996. "The human and financial toll underscores the serious nature of workplace fires."

In 1995, more than 75,000 workplace fires cost businesses more than \$2.3 billion.

According to National Safety Council figures, losses due to workplace fires in 1991 totaled \$2.2 billion. Of the 4,200 persons who lost their lives due to fires in 1991, the National Safety Council estimates 327 were workplace deaths. Fires and burns accounted for 3.3 percent of all occupational fatalities.

Some tips for workplace fire safety:

- Fire doors must not be blocked or locked to prevent emergency use when employees are within the buildings. Delayed opening of fire doors is permitted when an approved alarm system is integrated into the fire door design.

- Exit routes from buildings must be clear and free of obstructions and properly marked with signs designating exits from the building.

- Each workplace building must have a full complement of the proper type of fire extinguisher for the fire hazards present, except when employers wish to have employees evacuate instead of fighting small fires.

- Employees expected or anticipated to use fire extinguishers must be instructed on the hazards of fighting fire, how to properly operate the fire extinguishers available, and what procedures to follow in alerting others to the fire emergency.

- Emergency action plans are required to describe the routes to use and procedures to be followed by employees. Also, procedures for accounting for all evacuated employees must be part of the plan. The written plan must be available for employee review.

- Where needed, special procedures for helping physically impaired employees must be addressed in the plan; also, the plan must include procedures for those employees who must remain behind temporarily to shut down critical plant equipment before they evacuate.

New medical facility offers one stop for health care



PFC DAMIAN MCGEE
 PO3 Jessica A. Kirkpatrick, Leading Front Desk Petty Officer, Medical Clinic, assists PFC John T. Godfrey, 9th ESB, 3d FSSG, with his check-in process at the new medical facility on Camp Hansen. The clinic now supports the medical needs of all units located on Camp Hansen.

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — A new medical facility opened here Dec. 18 to provide more accommodating, comfortable care to Marines and Sailors.

According to the medical staff, the new building was long overdue.

"Our old building was out of standards for any type of medical facility," said Navy Lt Carla K. Thorson, Hospital Nurse, 3d Medical Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group. "This building is a much healthier and nicer facility."

The new clinic, with a staff of five doctors, one physician's assistant, one nurse and 70 corpsmen, assists an average of 60 patients daily.

The new facility has not changed the services it offers. The clinic is still responsible for everything from treatment of ambulatory patients to routine medical administration.

"We've always provided top-notch services. Our services are the same, just in a more customer friendly environment," said Navy Lt Samuel B. Palmer, Officer in Charge of the clinics at Camp Hansen, Camp Schwab and the Joint Services Brig.

The most attractive feature to the new clinic is that now, in addition to being a clinic, two Battalion Aid Stations also operate at the same location, according to Lt Palmer.

"When you have a toothache, you just go to dental. There's no question

as to who you need to see...it's all there," Lt Palmer said. "We are trying to provide that same environment with our facility. It's like a one-stop medical facility."

The new clinic supports III MEF Headquarters Group, 7th Communications Battalion, 3d Intelligence Battalion, Headquarters and Services Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion and Special Operations Training Group.

Emergency services are handled 24 hours a day.

Sick call at the clinic runs from 8 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday.

To make a medical appointment with the Group Aid Station, service members should call 623-4623.

NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for Jan. 30- Feb. 6.

• Underage drinking

A Corporal with Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$653 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

Three Privates First Class with BLT 1/5, 31st MEU, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of pay ranging from \$243-272 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

A Lance Corporal with 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$400 per month for one month, restriction for 30 days and extra duties for 15 days.

A Private with 3d Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, was found guilty at a battery-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$238 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

A Corporal with 3/12, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$607 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

Two Lance Corporals with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$283 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Purchasing alcohol for a Marine who is under the legal drinking age

A Lance Corporal with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: forfeiture of \$322 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Purchasing alcohol over prescribed authorized limit per day and drunk and disorderly conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces

A Corporal with 3/12, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of the above offenses. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$607 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

COURTS MARTIAL

• A Private assigned to 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was sentenced to 75 days confinement, forfeiture of \$670 per month for three months and a bad conduct discharge, at a special court-martial on one specification of Article 86, unauthorized absence, Article 92, underage drinking and accessing pornography on a government computer, Article 107, false official statement, and Article 121, wrongful appropriation.

• A Corporal assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division, was sentenced to reduction to E-1, 60 days confinement and forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months at a special court-martial on one specification of Article 134, failure to maintain sufficient funds.



LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT

Giving blood

PO2 Vivencio D. Elangos, Corpsman, Kinser Medical Clinic, gives blood at a blood drive here Jan. 23. The goal of the blood drive was to have 25-30 pints of blood donated during the drive. The blood donated will be used for patients throughout the Western Pacific area. Personnel will have the opportunity to donate blood throughout the year. "We have blood drives twice a week somewhere on the island," said PO2 Efren G. Francisco, Laboratory Technician, U.S. Naval Hospital.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Welcome Marine Program

The Welcome Marine Program is accepting applications for the WMP Scholarship. Applications should be submitted to the local education office by Feb. 16. Once scholarship will be awarded to a service member on Okinawa.

Applicants should either be a part-time student at a university on Okinawa or plan to proceed to a college full time in the United States after retirement or separation from active duty.

One of the students areas of study should be related to one of the following fields: Japanese studies; U.S.-Japan relations; or Security in the Far East.

Applicants will also be required to attend an interview on Okinawa with the scholarship committee.

The scholarship will award one student up to 300,000 yen per year depending on the need for up to two years.

For more information on the scholarship or application requirements contact your unit education officer or Marine Corps Community Services Life Long Learning Center at 645-3486.

Spouse tuition assistance

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society will open registration for the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program for Term IV.

Applications can be picked up Feb. 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. only at the Camp Foster Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society office, Building 5674.

The STAP is a need-based grant program open to all spouses who have accompanied active duty Navy and Marine Corps members overseas and who are going to attend undergraduate or graduate school on Okinawa. For more information, call 645-7808.

New scholarship program

Applications are now being accepted for the recently instituted Scholarship For Military Children program. Funded by manufacturers and business partners of the commissary system, the program of-

fers college-bound or college-enrolled military children the opportunity to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

One scholarship will be awarded per commissary location, depending on the receipt of qualified applications.

The scholarships are open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders to include active duty, retirees and reservists.

Applicants should return completed forms to their local commissary no later than close of business, Feb. 15, where a store official will validate eligibility by checking the student's dependent identification card.

Applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average and write a short essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means To Me." Application forms are available at local commissaries or can be downloaded in Word or PDF format at www.commissaries.com.

Kadena High School fund raiser

Kadena High School's senior class of 2001 will be having a furniture sale, Feb. 17 and 18. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Featured items will be antiques, various furniture and Persian rugs. KHS will have the sale set up in the forum area of the school.

Funds from the sale will go toward graduation, parent appreciation night and the senior picnic.

For more information, call Cheryl Aeillo at 634-1216.

Caribbean dance party

The Caribbean Heritage Society will host a "Caribbean Dance Party" Feb. 17 at the Globe and Anchor from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. There will be free food, door prizes and a limbo contest. For more information, call Beverly at 633-0147 or LaWanda at 633-8883.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Dare to dream ... just know how far you can fly



CPL MATTHEW S. BATES
CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

I'm not exactly sure how I ended up here, but if I had to put my finger on a reason, I would have to say that I was drawn by the adventure, the call of patriotism ... and, of course, the college money.

But most of all, I think I was on a journey of self-discovery. I have always been one of those people who are trying to "find" themselves. You know, the whole "there must be a reason for me to be on this earth" thinking.

Anyway, over the years leading up to my eventual enlistment in the military, this search to discover who I was had left me more confused than when I was simply content to be. Everything I saw, I wanted to be able to do and everywhere I heard of, I wanted to go. So, I decided to try my hand at different talents and jobs until I found THE ONE... the reason for my existence.

I set off on my journey with visions of saving the world from hunger or ridding it of disease in my mind.

I tried to be a farmer first. I figured that maybe I'd discover some new vegetable that would grow faster or larger which I could enter into the world market and bring to an end the suffering of starving children everywhere.

Anyway, my career as a farmer was really not one at all. It took very little time for me to realize that I knew nothing at all about planting seeds, let alone what to do with them once they were in the ground. And the only time I even came close to thinking I

may have had a green thumb was when I cut my left one on a rusty hoe and it got infected.

Fine, I thought to myself, so I'm not a gardener. There are plenty of other noble professions for me to try my hand at. I'll just have to think of another good one.

It was here that I decided to become a great chef. The one problem was that I failed to understand one must first be a not-so-great chef before one can become a great one. Well, like they say, hindsight is always 20-20.

But, oh, did I try. The awful messes, the broken dishes, the terrible concoctions, even the occasional fires – none worked to discourage me. I was a whirl of flour, a dash of cinnamon, a spray of vinegar in that kitchen, slaving over stoves and burners and electric blenders and mixers like there was no tomorrow. But in the end, when the last egg had been cracked and the milk had gone sour, I knew that my dream of being a world-renown chef had been just that. Who would ever hire a cook whose cookies tasted like flour and lasagna looked like goulash?

Still, I was not easily discouraged and quickly set to work trying career after career. There was nothing I seemed to be good at, though. As a fireman I burned down my neighbors garage; as a policeman I got arrested for shoplifting; as a doctor I got my brother admitted into the emergency room; as an artist my work was labeled graffiti; as a politician my "no girls allowed" policy wasn't taken as seriously as I had hoped; and as a scientist I had to spend two weeks in the hospital after I had a severe reaction to one of my "special" lotions.

So, all in all, I was quite the failure and my confidence was drastically faltering. I think that the only thing that saved me from giving up completely was my mother. She had witnessed my failed attempts at greatness and, as most mothers do, knew just when

to give encouragement. Of course, it didn't take much at the time ... I mean, I was only seven.

But the moral of this story is to recognize that, while we all want to do great things, you have to realize what your limitations are at any given moment. It's like a baby bird that looked out of the nest and dreamed of all the wonderful places he would visit, but forgot that he hadn't learned how to fly.

Now, years later, I have succeeded where before I was frustrated with failure. I am able to cook delicious foods, I survived chemistry class in high school without being admitted to the hospital, and my drawings actually look quite nice these days. But it took many years and a whole lot of experience to get here.

The same goes for my military career as well. I wasn't able to write a clean, tight news story on my first try – it took dozens of stories and plenty of help from my peers and superiors. And don't even get me started on photography. If I have a bane in this profession, it would be my inability to shoot the type of photos I see in my head and in other people's portfolios. Still, I am a lot better at shooting pictures now than when I first picked up that camera over three years ago.

So, what I am trying to say is: don't be afraid of trying new and exciting avenues in your life, but by the same token, don't be afraid of failure. Climb those mountains, take that recon indoc, write that novel – whatever it is that you dream of doing, do.

We all make mistakes, just learn from them and don't let the fear of failure keep you from doing whatever it is in your life that you've always wanted to. After all, if we all gave in to our fear of failure, the Marine Corps probably wouldn't even exist.

Most importantly, though, don't ever give up on yourself and don't ever let anyone come between you and your dreams. Theirs are different anyway, so how do they know if yours are possible or not?

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Dealing with sexual harassment

You have a new female lance corporal working for you in your section. She has a great attitude and works hard. She asks you if she can talk to you after work today. You are her sergeant, the first step up in her chain of command.

You expect, by the look on her face and by the tone in her voice, that you are about to hear some form of personal problem.

By 1700 everyone is out of the office except for you and the lance corporal, so you call her over to talk. She appears nervous and flustered as she explains that she feels your SNCO is sexually harassing her.

You have known the staff sergeant for two years now and have nothing but the highest respect for him. When you press the lance corporal for some specifics, she is unable to give you one exact incident.

"Well, he just gives me the creeps. He is always looking at me and following me around," she said. "At first I thought it was just my imagination, but yesterday the staff sergeant asked me if I wanted a ride to the chow hall. It just seemed odd that he would only ask me, and no one else."

You consider yourself a pretty good sergeant and you like to think that you know what is going on in the office, but this one has taken you by surprise. What do you do?

What the Marines said

Corporal with 3d FSSG: "I would tell her that I would watch more closely and if I saw any inappropriate behavior I would tell the CO."

Lance Corporal with III MEF: "I would tell her that unless she had some proof, then I couldn't do anything about it."

Lance Corporal with MCB: "I would tell my staff sergeant that the lance corporal has a problem with him, so they could work it out between themselves."

What the Chaplain said

The issue is inappropriate attention of a male SNCO toward a female Marine of lesser rank. First, the sergeant should take the lance corporal's concerns seriously. It took a lot of courage for her to come forward. Please note, that by coming forward to her sergeant, she is investing a tremendous amount of trust in him. So what should the sergeant do?

After hearing the lance corporal's concerns, the sergeant might encourage this Marine to see a chaplain and/or an EEO Counselor. The idea here is not to escalate the situation but help the lance corporal understand how to handle the situation.

Finally, if I was that sergeant and that lance corporal was my Marine, I would start paying attention to the staff sergeant's interaction with "my Marine." The fact that this lance corporal feels uncomfortable with this SNCO is sufficient to begin observations. If what I see supports the lance corporal's concerns, I would certainly have a heart to heart talk with my staff sergeant. Ultimately, that lance corporal will have to tell the staff sergeant about his behavior and request him to stop.

Being the good sergeant that I am, I would be there when that happens. The intent is to resolve this issue at the lowest level. However, if the staff sergeant's behavior towards the lance corporal continues, further action may be necessary. Keep in mind, this takes courage. And courage is a CORE value.

— Navy Capt Henry Nixon, III MEF Chaplain



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Print and slide film developed by CVIC, MCB

The address for the Okinawa Marine Homepage is:
<http://okinawa.usmc.mil>

The Young Marine Program on Camp Foster began training a new platoon of recruits Jan. 29. Senior Drill Instructor LCpl Tasha D. Hammond-Price ensures new recruits Candace N. Veal (far right), 11, and Courtney M. Veal, 12, pay attention during class.



Brittney Lopez, 8, maintains her bearing while listening to her instructors.



YOUNG MARINE

Instill discipline, bearing, respect in future generations of youth



Sammy Pisano, 10, attends a class about the Marine Corps.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LCPL CHAD SWAIM
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Standing on a set of yellow footprints with demanding drill instructors circling like sharks is something most Marines will never forget. On Jan. 29 a group of 13 children endured a similar scenario here on their first day of Young Marines boot camp.

The children started off their 11-week boot camp as Platoon 2016. Until they graduate on April 7, their Saturdays will be spent here ... training.

"For 11 weeks they will be training hard," said SgtMaj Robert E. Soto, Executive Officer, Camp Foster, Young Marines. "It's my objective to get the new recruits graduated so they can participate in the camp."

Normally, Young Marine recruit training lasts 13 weeks, but because of the Young Marines Spring Camp involving Young Marines from Camps Foster, Kinser and Courtney, this has been shortened by adding hours to the training day, according to SgtMaj Soto.

The recruits are graduating early to attend the five-day Spring Camp at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma April 7-12.

Their first day of boot camp focused on basic facing movements, Young Marine terms and learning the Young Marine Hymn.

"It was pretty tough, but I liked it," said Philip Skalniak, 13. "I was sort of scared, but I tried to do my best so I wouldn't get yelled at."

The volunteer staff of 12 who work with the Young Marines is here to mentor the children and teach them responsibility, according to SSgt Laticia Coon, Acting First Sergeant, Camp Foster, Young Marines.

The program reinforces values outside the home by someone other than the parents, said Col Paul J.

Pisano, Camp Foster, Camp Commander, who has two children enrolled in the Young Marine Program.

"The purpose of the Young Marines is to instill bearing, discipline and respect," said LCpl Tasha D. Hammond-Price, Senior Drill Instructor. "It also teaches them to have confidence in themselves."

During boot camp, Young Marines will be required to do a lot of physical training, according to SSgt Coon. "We actually run Physical Fitness Tests and do swimming qualifications."

The recruits will have classes on Marine Corps history, general orders, interior guard, drill, and maintaining good grades in school, according to SgtMaj Soto.

"It gives them a goal to work toward," said LCpl Hammond-Price. "It's basically the same as Marine boot camp, just toned down for the younger children."

Once these recruits complete boot camp, that is when the fun begins, according to SSgt Coon.

"In February we're going to take the Young Marines to the rifle range, where they will qualify with pellet guns," SSgt Coon said. "We're going to take them on a 24-hour encampment and a trip to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma where they will tour the aircraft."

"Basically we try to give them something different to do every week," SgtMaj Soto said.

Young Marine recruits must be between the ages of 8 and 18. A physical is recommended, but not required. A fee of \$20 for insurance and \$60 to cover the cost of uniforms and registration is required.

The next opportunity for children to join the Young Marines and attend boot camp could be as soon as May according to SgtMaj Soto.

Those interested in participating in the Young Marines or volunteering their time to help the program can check out the Camp Foster Young Marines web site at www.cfyouthmarines.homestead.com.



Senior Drill Instructor LCpl Tasha D. Hammond-Price ensures the recruits are paying attention during class.



ES



no, 8, listens to
 Young Marine



d-Price makes
 ss.



Senior Drill Instructor
 LCpl Tasha D. Hammond-
 Price looks over her new
 platoon as they settle in
 for their first round of
 classes.



Osaru, an actor from a Nihon Television show, "Melengue no Kimochi," prepares to rappel at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Dec. 14. Osaru and three other actors visited Okinawa during a filming session for an upcoming episode.



Actors

drop
in

*JWTC instructors introduce
Nihon television stars to
center's endurance course*

2NDLT JULIANNE H. SOHN
PRESS OFFICER

CAMP GONSAIVES — Four Japanese actors from a mainland Japan television program experienced some Marine training Okinawa-style with the help of Jungle Warfare Training Center instructors Dec. 14.

Masami Hisamoto, Osaru, Chiu-Yan, and Erika Yamakawa of Nihon Television entertainment program called "Melengue no Kimochi" rappelled, ate MREs and participated in the pit and pond section of JWTC's endurance course.

"We're here as a part of an annual program to visit parts of Okinawa and Japan," Hisamoto said. "This is a good opportunity to see the facility and introduce the program."

The show is a cooking program that introduces local menus. The theme of the show is food mixed with entertainment, said Tamio Ota, Film Coordinator and Translator from the Okinawa Location Service.

"This is our first time here and we are

excited," Ota said.

The four television actors donned khaki uniforms and black combat boots in preparation for the day's events while the camera crew covered their every move.

Sgt Chris Curtis, JWTC Instructor, assisted the four actors with each event as they hammed it up in front of the camera with the JWTC Marines.

"This is a fun group. They're really excited about (the training)," Sgt Curtis said.

But the actors quickly discovered that Marine training is not always fun.

"It's hot!" Osaru said, trying to cool off his rope-burned hands after finishing his turn rappelling.

Sgt Curtis supervised the rappelling, showed the actors how to navigate obstacles in the pit and pond and instructed them on preparing an MRE.

"Will you go if I go first? ... What if I did it upside down?"

— Sgt Chris Curtis, JWTC Instructor

for training

The filming didn't go without some setbacks. Hisamoto was reluctant to rappel and Chiu-Yan had some difficulty navigating some of the obstacles at the pit and pond.

"I'm afraid of heights," Hisamoto said through her interpreter. Sgt Curtis was able to convince her to rappel despite her fear.

"Will you go, if I go first?" asked Curtis. "What if I did it upside down?"

After Hisamoto rappelled, Sgt Curtis demonstrated how to rappel "upside down" while the actors and camera crew cheered.

The actors were also surprised at the variety of the MREs and discovered that they can also be tasty.

"This is delicious," Hisamoto said.

The JWTC staff said, besides the training, hosting the actors was a good opportunity to show off JWTC to the community.

Marines protect Fuji during CASF training



Braving the chilly air, a Marine from Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji, scans the area from his rooftop observation post during a 24-hour exercise.
SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO

SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CATC CAMP FUJI, Japan — In a dense fog and chilled winter air, Marines keep their eyes and ears on their surrounding areas. Suddenly, the quiet evening is shattered as armed members of a terrorist group lob grenades at a sentry post.

From their posts, Marines report the mock attack to the command headquarters. Reinforcements are quickly dispatched to the scene to apprehend the assailants and hold them for the military police.

Marines assigned here recently conducted a Camp Augmentation Security Force training exercise as part of the Camp's Force Protection Plan.

According to 1stLt Bartholomew Battista, CASF Commander, there were two purposes for the exercise.

"Our first goal was to see how well we could put our plan into action; see what we need to change and improve it," 1stLt Battista said. "The second objective was to challenge the Marines with realistic training and teach them their roles in the camp's security and protection plan."

Headquarters and Support Company was divided into two CASF platoons, taking turns standing observation posts, roving foot and vehicle patrols, and reaction forces.

During the exercise, members of the Provost Marshal's Office acted as aggressors and conducted their own assigned CASF duties of personnel and ve-

hicle searches and patrols.

Throughout the 24-hour exercise, the aggressors had two main objectives: destroy the camp's fuel farm and overtake the Battalion's Command Post. They were unable to penetrate the fuel farm, but were successful in destroying the armory and overtaking the CP.

"The foot patrols were heavy and we had a hard time getting to the fuel farm," said SSgt Patrick Keith, Provost Marshal's Office. "The reaction forces were also quick to respond to calls. Using a little deception, we were able to take over the CP on our second attempt."

The CASF Marines said the exercise was a realistic learning experience and that they enjoyed the opportunity to enhance their infantry skills. For many of these Marines, Camp Fuji is their first duty station.

"The exercise was worthwhile. We need to know how to defend the camp and assist the military police," said PFC Mark Mears, an LAV Mechanic with Support Company. "As part of the reaction force, I learned we need to know more information about the situation we're responding to, instead of just blindly rushing into it."

"I learned what to be on the look out for and being alert so nobody gets past," said LCpl Juan Torres, a Personnel Administrator with Headquarters Company.

"It was a great learning experience," said PFC Evelyn Edwards, Supply Warehouse Clerk. "Being on an observation post teaches you to stay quiet and low so you don't stand out. Also we learned what we did wrong so we remembered it during the next shift."

After a debrief, the cold and tired Marines prepared for a well-deserved long holiday weekend.

"For this being the first exercise, it went well. The amount of patrols and relief made it extremely difficult for us," SSgt Keith concluded. "However, there are still some small details to work on. When the patrols or reaction forces responded, they would secure the prisoners then clear the area. They wouldn't check to see if other aggressors were in the vicinity."

"For the most part the exercise went very well," 1stLt Battista said. "The Marines haven't had a lot of this type of training. With our high turnover rate, we're constantly updating our rosters and revising our plan."



SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO

Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, work with Japanese junior high school students on the basics of passing.

Fuji Marines assist local school program

SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER, CAMP FUJI — Marines here recently taught the basics of basketball to Japanese students at West Junior High School.

The visit was twofold, according to Mr. Minamoto Takayuki, teacher. Marines taught basketball and assisted the students practice their English speaking skills.

"Our goal was for the Marines to show our students basic basketball skills," Takayuki said. "At the same time, my students were to practice speaking English during the class."

Prior to the basketball class, the Marines were served a traditional Japanese high school lunch by the students and got to know a little more about the students. After a quick change over into athletic attire, students and Marines were divided into groups.

Marines demonstrated and assisted students with passing, dribbling, free throw and defensive techniques. The Marines then put on a short game against one another to show how the skills work together in a game. Japanese students also played each other and then took on the Marines.

"I had a lot fun," said Sergeant Joshua Luce, Headquarters Company. "The students were very friendly and did pretty well trying to speak English. Their basketball skills will get better with practice also."

Fuji Marines overpower Yokosuka lifting competition



Robert Zuniga, Support Company, took first place in his weight class during a recent bench press competition at Yokosuka Naval Station.
SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO

SSGT JOHN C. DIDOMENICO
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

YOKOSUKA NAVAL STATION, Japan — "The bar is loaded," says the announcer. With a deep breath and taut muscles, the competitor lowers the barbell to his chest. The judge claps his hands and says, "Start."

Robert Zuniga, Joel Lancaster and Prince Agbemble, from Camp Fuji, were among the more than 20 lifters who competed recently in the Yokosuka Naval Station's Inaugural Bench Press Winter Classic.

During the competition, lifters had three attempts to lift successively heavier weight they felt they could bench press.

They started with the bar touching their chest without bouncing, then raised it straight up with their arms extended.

If the bar bounced on their chest; if their buttocks came off the bench, or if their arms dipped, it was ruled a bad lift.

Zuniga placed first in the 148-pound weight class with three clean lifts. His maximum weight was 230 pounds. Agbemble and Lancaster finished second and third respectively in the 181-pound weight class.

Agbemble had two clean lifts, maxing out at 315

pounds while partner Lancaster had one clean lift of 305 pounds.

According to Zuniga, lifters must stay focused on every aspect of the lift. The El Monte, Calif., native has been competing for less than two years.

"There are a lot of details to remember during the competitions," Zuniga said. "You must psyche yourself up, focus on the weight and ensure it's a good, clean lift."

On his second attempt, Lancaster was unsuccessful lifting 315 pounds. He decided then not to attempt a third lift.

"I had trouble locking my right arm out on the second lift," said the Gainesville, Fla., native. "I don't know what happened — I just couldn't get it to straighten. I've lifted the weight before in the gym. I didn't want to lower my left arm to try and even out the bar since I knew it would disqualify the lift. However, I'm glad I placed."

With trophies in hand, the three Marines returned to Camp Fuji to begin preparing for the next competition.

"There was some heavy duty lifters out there," said Agbemble. "We'll have more Marines get involved in the next competition."



PHOTOS BY LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
Demetrius McFarland participates in a coloring contest at the Boy and Girls Club on Camp Kinser.



Jonathan Williams, family member, plays video games at the Boys and Girls Club on Camp Kinser.

Club offers youths place for fun

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER — Screams of excitement and the thumping sound of small feet fill the air while kids travel between rooms exploring new and exciting activities around each corner.

Children, 5-12 years old, find this type of excitement every day at the Boys and Girls Club located at the Youth Center here. The club provides a place where they can spend time with their friends after school.

"The club gives them a place to come when their parents are still at work," said Silia Griffin, Assistant Manager, Boys and Girls Club. "On average we have anywhere from 40 to 50 kids on school days and from 70 to 90 kids on non-school days."

According to Griffin, the children never have to worry about having a watchful eye supervising them.

"When I arrived in 1998, I visited the club and there was one small television, and the kids were all running in and out of the door," Griffin said. "Now, wherever there are children, there will be a supervisor."

The club's policy dictates that during activities, a supervisor can only watch 20 children at a time. Therefore, the club is always looking for volunteers to help out with the growing number of children and it always seems to be full.

"We have a lot of children coming here and we can always use the extra help," said Griffin.

The club features many activities where children can interact and play games together. Club members can play a game of pool, challenge each other on the foosball tables, play air hockey or sit down and play video games.

If the children feel artistic, they can work in the arts room with coloring and construction paper.

Some of the most popular features of the club are the group activities. The photography club allows children to go on picture taking field trips while the Ultimate Journey Club teaches them about keeping travel logs about their many trips.

The Boys and Girls Club doesn't focus on games alone. It also offers a place to sit down and work on homework during a time called the Power Hour.

"The Power Hour gives the children an opportunity

to get their homework done and to get something in return," said Griffin. "For everyone who participates in the Power Hour, we have some kind of party for them at the end of the month."

Along with a Power Hour party each month, the club also has a dance the first Friday of each month and contests for prizes.

"This month the children have to guess how many M&M's are in the jar to win a scooter," Griffin said. "We try to do contests where the children feel like they participate rather than just drawing tickets."

The children seem to like the opportunity to have some place to go after school to play.

"If you're new here it is a good place to meet friends," said Ashley Holt, military family member. "If they didn't have a place like this, we would be home driving our parents crazy."

Club hours are from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m. The club opens early on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. During the summer, the club is open daily from 12 to 6 p.m. For more information call 637-3760 or contact the nearest Youth Center.

Local book company reads to Killin Elementary School first graders

LANCE CPL. CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Edward C. Killin Elementary School hosted guest readers from Kodansha, a Japanese book company, recently as a part of its third annual Cultural Exchange Program.

As part of Kodansha's 90th anniversary, the company is sending readers and a bookmobile to all of Japan's prefectures.

The guest readers entertained Killin's first grade students with stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Rainbow Fish* and a grim version of *The Three Little Pigs* where only one pig makes it out alive.

There was also a story read in Japanese about a tiny mouse that is able to help provide the extra strength to pull a turnip from the ground, according to Laurie Simpson, first grade teacher at Killin.

"It was a retell of the story of the giant turnip," Simpson said. "It's a folk tale that's probably been told in every culture."

The group did a very good job on selecting stories for the reading, according to Simpson.

"Those were all stories that the kids were really familiar with," Simpson said. "No matter what the language, they could enjoy and appreciate it."

The five-person group from Kodansha will be visiting a different prefecture each month in 2001. In January, the program visited 41 schools on Okinawa, but Killin is the only American school it visited.

"I'm glad the readers came," Simpson said. "I think it's good for kids to realize other adults besides myself or their parents read."

The readers reached 120 Killin first grade students during the hour they spent at the school.

"It's nice to have other folks that come into the school and do these kinds of things," Simpson said.

Kodansha also sent a bookmobile that carries more than 350 culturally diverse children's books.

"I think it's good for the children to see that," Simpson said. "They know people speak Japanese, but sometimes they don't realize that the visual written language is different."

The Cultural Exchange Program ran through the month of January. It introduced the children to different aspects of Japanese culture.

As part of the Cultural Exchange program other activities throughout January included exchange activities between American students and Okinawan children.

"The purpose is to bring the diverse cultures for our students to get a feel for their host nation," Tejada said. "And, become active members of their community."



LCPL CHAD SWAIM
The *Very Hungry Caterpillar* keeps Sarrina Avilez (left) and Eliza Cana, both 6, glued to their seats during Edward C. Killin Elementary School's Cultural Exchange Program.



SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS

Will Appling, Kubasaki wrestler, attempts to take down teammate Bobby Duncan during the Kubasaki High School Open Wrestling Tournament. Duncan won the match 8-4.



SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS

Cpl Jesse Syfert, Field Radio Operator, 3/11, who was selected for All-Marine Wrestling Team tryouts, competes against an Okinawan wrestler in the 187-pound weight class of the Kubasaki High School Open Wrestling Tournament Jan. 27. Syfert normally wrestles in the 167-pound weight-class, but in preparation for the All-Marine Wrestling Team tryout, he wrestled in a higher weight class for the challenge.

Wrestling tournament gives Kubasaki experience on the mat

LCPL KENNETH HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Kubasaki High School Dragons hosted the last open wrestling tournament of the season on Okinawa Jan. 27 before heading off to the annual Far-East Wrestling Tournament.

The tournament here was just one in six open wrestling tournaments held every year on Okinawa and was open to high school students, service members, local civilians and anyone else who had a desire to wrestle.

Wrestlers began showing up at the school's gym around 9 a.m. to weigh in and be put into one of nine weight classes.

The Kubasaki Wrestling Team, Okinawan Oji Wrestling Organization and several Marine wrestlers were among those who entered the tournament.

Wrestlers from the Oji team came out on top winning four of the nine weight classes. Kubasaki High School placed second by capturing three weight classes. The Marines nabbed two weight class victories.

"These open tournaments started in 1971 and are a real advantage to us as a high school because

it gives our wrestlers a chance to compete with older, more mature wrestlers," said Jeff Pellaton, Head Wrestling Coach, Kubasaki High School. "It's also a good challenge and it gives the students a confidence factor when they get a victory over a service member or Japanese wrestler."

"We usually train ourselves, but the Marines and the Japanese help our training by giving us competition and practice," said Russell J. Micho, Kubasaki High School Senior Wrestler. "They teach us a lot of moves that we don't know and that always helps out in the long run."

In addition to learning new moves, the Dragon wrestlers gain a mental advantage over other high school teams.

"After wrestling Marines and Japanese locals, the students receive a physiological edge because a lot of them have to wrestle much older individuals," Pellaton said. "It then becomes hard for the students to be intimidated by fellow high school students after this experience."

Wrestling in open tournaments allows the team to wrestle more often than other schools in their league, according to Micho.

"Wrestlers are a very dedicated breed and with



LCPL KENNETH HINSON

Russ Nealy, Kubasaki High School wrestler, pushes Ryan Lincoln to the mat during their match at Kubasaki's Open Wrestling Tournament.

all the hours and weeks of practice, it's always nice to see your team develop," Pellaton said. "Without the tournaments it provides no opportunity to help our team out."

"It's a rare situation when you get a cultural exchange where not everyone speaks the same language," Pellaton said. "But contrary to belief, on the mat where the wrestling takes place the language is always the same."

The Kubasaki High wrestling team now looks forward to defending last year's Far-East Wrestling Tournament title at Kinnick High School, Yokosuka, Japan.

2/7 ends six month deployment with week of sports competitions

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP SCHWAB — Longing for a change of pace, the Marines of 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, were granted the opportunity to get physical one more time.

After six months of intense combat training, 2/7 Marines showed that they could play just as hard as they train when they kicked off a week of sports competition Jan. 22-26.

"We want to give the Marines time to relax after all their hard work while deployed here," said 1stLt Ja-

son K. Vanmeter, Assistant Training Officer, 2/7.

2/7 engaged in several training evolutions during its deployment here, to include experiencing the Jungle Warfare Training Center and participating in the Korean Incremental Training Program.

Part of the Unit Deployment Program, 2/7 wrapped up its six-month deployment by taking a break from its daily routine to enjoy the friendly competition before packing up and heading home to Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The fun-filled week included soft-

ball, flag football, volleyball, power lifting, wrestling, and various other competitions. It was originally started as a way for Marines to relax while going through a transitional period of returning back to their parent command.

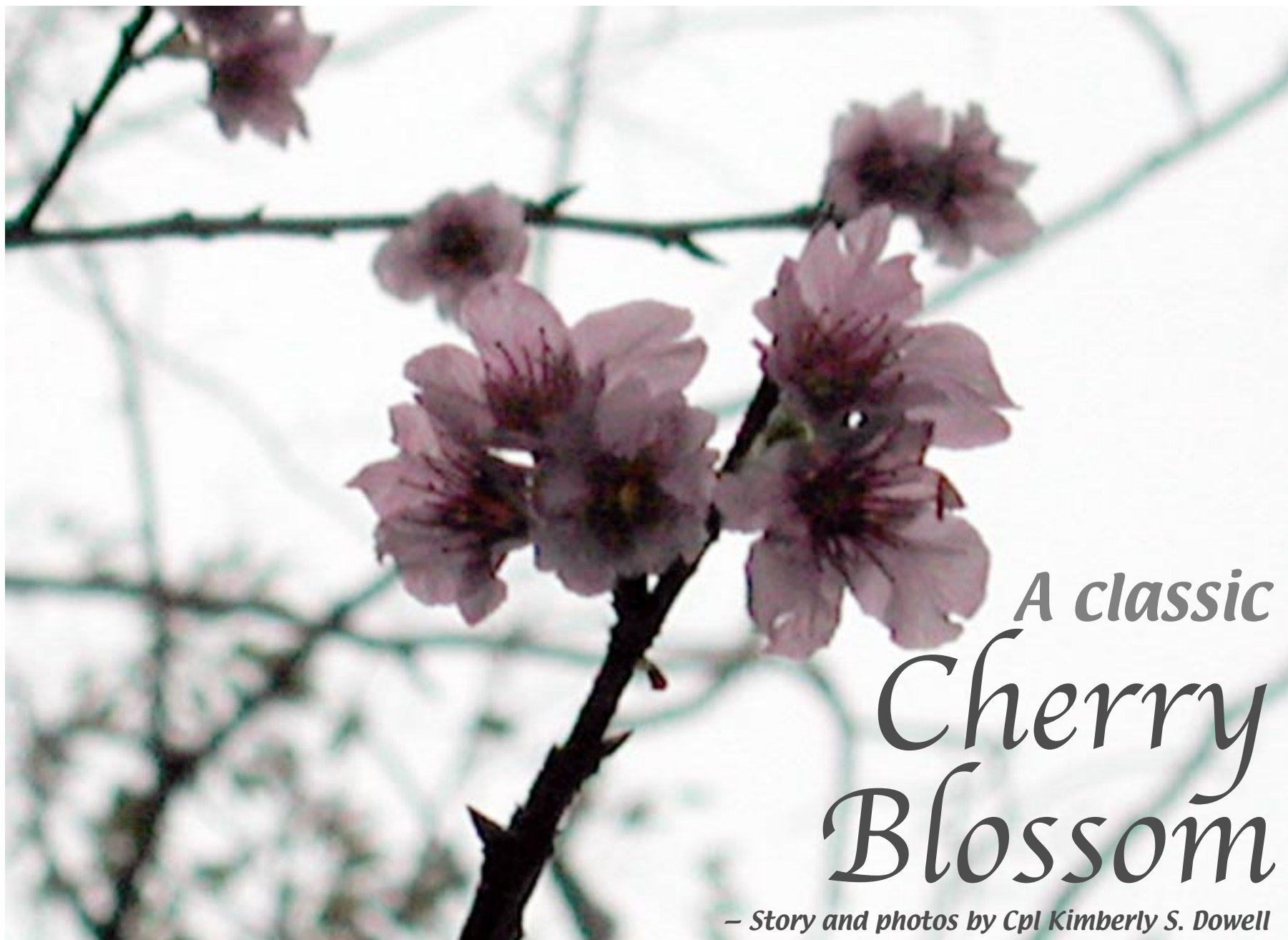
"We try to make sure that the week is very laid back and relaxed," 1stLt Vanmeter said. "It's an opportunity for the Marines to be outside without having on their combat gear."

For the Marines, it was definitely the competition that made the week such a success.

"It's very competitive... with a lot of trash talking," said Capt Robert V. Rubio, who served as a referee for the flag football tournament. "But, when it's all said and done the week is about esprit de corps, teamwork and unity among the Marines."

The sports week is the first of its kind, but there are plans to make it a regular event for 2/7.

"1/7 has one similar to this. But, it is only one day," 1stLt Vanmeter said. "After the success of this one, I can definitely see us continuing to do something like this for the Marines."



A classic Cherry Blossom

— Story and photos by Cpl Kimberly S. Dowell

39th annual festival in Nago City celebrates Okinawan culture with music, food and people

NAGO CITY, Okinawa — Soft, green buds swayed on bare tree limbs, just tiny hints of the blooms to come. Stone steps, usually carpeted by pale, pink petals, stood bare and gray. Small birds jumped from bud to bud, in search of the nectar they normally gather this time of year.

This was the scene at the 39th Annual Nago City Cherry Blossom Festival, as the usual canopy of pink cherry blossoms was sparse this year due to the warm winter. Despite the lack of blossoms, service members and their families joined Okinawans and visitors from mainland Japan, Jan. 26-28, to enjoy some of the earliest cherry blossom viewing in Japan.

"There are other places to see the blossoms right now," said Mitsuo Iha, Food Vendor, Nago City. "The people come to Nago because it is tradition for the Okinawans. The Americans come to see the Okinawan culture."

The other places to view cherry blossoms include Yaedake and the Nakijin Castle ruins.

Yaedake, known as Yae Mountain, is about 20 minutes north of Nago City on the Motobu Peninsula. It features a winding mountain road lined with 4,000 cherry trees. The road ends with a scenic view of the East China Sea.

The cherry trees planted on Yae Mountain generally bloom sooner than those planted in Nago City and nearby Nakijin Castle, according to the Motobu Township Tourist Association.

The three-day celebration in Nago started without an abundance of pink petals, yet it brimmed with music, food and people.

The streets were lined with vendors selling balloons, Okinawan pastries and Japanese foods. Children licked pink cotton candy from their fingers and chased dog-shaped balloons through the legs of their laughing parents.

Couples shared ice cream cones and plates of yakisoba.

Throughout the festival, audiences gathered to enjoy performances by taiko drummers, local folk music groups and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band.

Okinawan dancers, little league baseball teams and the contestants in the Miss Cherry Blossom pageant paraded down Main Street on the last day of the festival.

Bringing the 80's to life for American and Okinawan visitors alike, an Okinawan break-dancing club, the Blind Side Breakers, threw down a mat and began to dance. The dancers brought out moves such as the 'worm' and the 'robot,' tossing

in an occasional head spin. Military members in the crowd were caught bringing out a few unforgettable moves themselves.

"It's great to get out and see some of the Okinawan culture, especially since it is my last weekend here," said LCpl Lisa Bueno, Ammunitions Technician, Ammunitions Company, 3d Force Service Support Group. "It's also kind of cool to see our culture show up in their celebration."

LCpl Bueno enjoyed playing with the monkeys and fruit bats that visitors fed at a small petting zoo. A nearby pen holding goats and a llama completed the petting zoo, located at the base of the stairs that led to the Nago Castle ruins.

Finding the flat ground around the petting zoo more inviting than the stone steps that disappeared into the sky, LCpl Bueno opted not to make the arduous climb to the top. However, other visitors stepped it out despite the climb.

"It's good to see so many Americans here," said Kimberly M. Bearden, Speech Pathologist, Stearly Heights Elementary School, Kadena Air Base.

Bearden and two colleagues braved the stone stairway to take a picture of cherry blossoms. When they got a little more than halfway to the top, they noticed the rather bare limbs and opted to take a break on a wooden bench. Undaunted by the lack of blossoms, the threesome decided to visit Nago City and Yae Mountain sometime in the next couple of weeks to take the picture.

Many of the visitors at the festival made the most of the celebration despite the limited number of blossoms. Expected to be in full-bloom by Feb. 1, the cherry blossoms here, unlike their American counterparts in Washington, D.C., remain in bloom through summer.



Women dressed in traditional Okinawan costumes performed a cherry blossom dance during the main street parade. The parade lasted throughout the afternoon on the final day of the festival.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1990 Honda CRX — JCI Jul 01, \$1,500 OBO. Mary, 633-0822.
1991 Mitsubishi Diamante — JCI Jul 02, \$2,000 OBO. 623-6184.
1989 Toyota Chaser — JCI Jan 03, \$2,800 OBO. 646-3119.
1994 Honda Cynos — JCI Jan 03, \$2,500 OBO. 646-3045.
1986 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 02, \$1,600. 645-4273.
1989 Honda Accord — JCI Oct 01, \$1,100. 632-3181.
1990 Toyota Carina — JCI Apr 01, \$1,700 OBO. 622-5328.
1998 HD 1200 — \$9,000. Phil, 646-8524 or 636-1175.
1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 03, \$3,400 OBO. 646-5348.
1991 Nissan Presoa — JCI Jan 03, \$2,000. **1989 BMW** — \$500 OBO. **1991 Nissan Maxima** — JCI Sep 01, \$2,600. 637-4097.
1992 Honda City — JCI Dec 02, \$1,800. Latresa, 646-5747.
1988 Honda Prelude — JCI Dec 01, \$1,800 OBO. 090-9785-2197.
1993 Toyota Edv — JCI Feb 02, \$3,500 OBO. 646-4289.
1986 Honda Shad 1100cc — \$1,800. Neil, 876-6062.
1994 Nissan Pulsar — JCI Feb 03, \$2,500. 646-6267 or 645-1736.
1990 Honda Bro — JCI Feb 02, \$1,800 OBO. Jim, 633-1016.
1986 Honda Prelude — JCI Mar 02, \$1,200 OBO. 636-4618.
1992 Mazda Familia — JCI Feb 02, \$1,200 OBO. 645-7242.
1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 03, \$3,000 OBO. 646-5348.
1991 Toyota Levin — JCI Oct 02, \$1,950. 645-7604 or 632-3909.
1993 Suzuki Alto — JCI Jul 01, \$1,500. Jeff, 090-9786-7884.
1988 Honda — JCI Oct 02, \$900 OBO. 645-3919 or 646-8355.
1989 Toyota Chaser — JCI Mar 02, \$2,500 OBO. 623-6306.
1990 Honda CRX — JCI Jul 01, \$1,800 OBO. Mary, 633-0822.
1990 Toyota Lite Ace — JCI Aug 01, \$3,000 OBO. 625-2896.
1987 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jul 02, \$1,500. 637-4061.

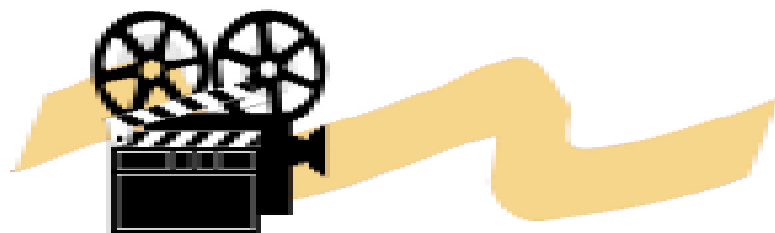


MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. — 18" game table, \$75; Total Gym 1000, \$85; and Little Tykes Car Mt., \$10. Mary, 633-0822.
Textbooks — UMUC-GVPT 170 book, \$35; CTC-Math 1307 college algebra book with solution manual, \$65; and ECON 1301 with additional subject book, \$30. 646-5042.
Misc. — Weider 8630 Home Gym, \$200; metal file cabinet, \$50; and box of sports cards, \$250. 646-5042.
Misc. — Power wheels 4 wheeler, \$60; health rider, \$150; ab shaper, \$20 and Sega CD w/games, \$70. 637-6082.
Misc. — Carpet 9x12, \$50; (2) small rugs, \$5 each; Evenflo stroller car seat, \$75; Graco swing, \$45; Crib sheet, \$35; Tot wheels baby walker, \$25. Steve, 632-3181.
Misc. — Futaba Radio Control w/all access, \$500. 622-9347.
Pets — FTGH, male and female cats, fixed w/shots. 646-5042.
Misc. — 17" chrome rims/tires, \$1,800; (2) 12" subs, \$300; 1000 watt amp, \$150; JVC adjustable crossover, \$80; Kenwood adjustable equalizer/crossover, \$110; white and chrome steering wheel, \$50; wood and chrome steering wheel, \$50. 637-4097.
Misc. — Crib, changing table, dresser, \$200; high chair, \$30; baby tub seat w/cushion, \$5; (2) computer monitors, \$25 each. Melissa, 634-0114 or 622-8649 after 6 p.m.
Pet — FTGH Japanese Sheba dog w/shots and spayed. 890-4822.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...

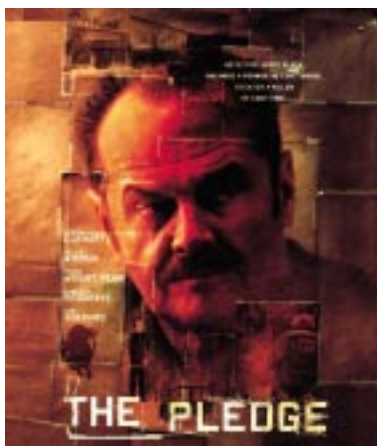


Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Courtney
(622-9616)
Fri Charlies Angels (pG13); 7:00
Sat Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Sun The Legend of Drunken Master (R); 7:00

Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Digimon (PG); 3:00
Wed Little Nicky (PG13); 7:00
Thu Closed

Butler
(645-3465)
Fri The Pledge (R); 7:00, 10:00
Sat Most Valuable Primate (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sat The Pledge (R); 7:00, 10:00
Sun Most Valuable Primate (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sun The Pledge (R); 7:00
Mon Men of Honor (R); 7:00



Check Futenma and Butler Theaters for show times.

Tue Men of Honor (R); 7:00
Wed Dr. T & the Women (R); 7:00
Thu What Women Want (PG13); 7:00

Keystone
(634-1869)
Fri The Legend of Drunken Master (R); 6:30
Fri Cast Away (PG13); 9:00
Sat Rugrats in Paris (G); 1:00
Sat Cast Away (PG13); 4:30
Sat What Women Want (PG13); 9:00
Sun Rugrats in Paris (G); 2:00
Sun What Women Want (PG13); 5:30, 9:00
Mon Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00



Check Kinser, Keystone, Hansen and Butler Theaters for show times.



Check Kinser and Keystone Theaters for show times.

Tue Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
Wed Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Thu Men of Honor (R); 7:00

Kinser
(637-2177)
Fri Charlies Angels (PG13); 7:00
Sat Rugrats in Paris (G); 3:00
Sat Men of Honor (R); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Dr. T & the Women (R); 7:00
Wed Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
Thu Dr. T & the Women (R); 7:00

Hansen
(623-4564)
Fri Thirteen Days (PG13); 6:00
Sat Thirteen Days (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sun Men of Honor (R); 2:00, 5:30
Mon The Exorcist (R); 7:00
Tue Red Planet (R); 7:00
Wed Ladies Man (R); 7:00
Thu Lost Souls (R); 7:00

Schwab
(625-2333)
Fri Kings of Comedy (R)
Sat Final Cut (R)
Sat Red Planet (PG13)
Sun Final Cut (R)
Sun Red Planet (PG13)
Mon The Pledge (R)
Tue The Pledge (R)
Wed Closed
Thu The Legend of Drunken Master (R)

Call Schwab for start times

Futenma
(636-3890)
Fri The Legend of Bagger Vance (PG13); 7:30
Sat Little Nicky (PG13); 6:00
Sun The Legend of Drunken Master (R); 6:00
Mon Antitrust (PG13); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed The Pledge (R); 7:30
Thu Closed

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AAFES
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Shampoo & set or blow dry, complete package service, manicure or pedicure at your AAFES Beauty Shop.

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